**THIS IS AN EMAIL THAT WAS SENT BY SOMEONE, WHOM I WILL REFER TO AS "DUDE," TO A FRIEND OF MINE NAMED STAN, WHO THEN FORWARDED IT ON TO ME.**

**THE EMAIL WAS IN REFERENCE TO MY WEB SITE "THESKEPTICARENA.COM." HERE IS MY REPLY TO THE EMAIL (MY REPLIES ARE IN ALL CAPS AND FOLLOW DUDE'S COMMENTS).**

**DUDE BEGINS:**

**Stan, I read one critical exchange Neo had with someone. It's easy to dismiss people who aren't too smart and who adhere to unscientific dogma.**

**IF IT WERE AS EASY AS YOU CLAIM, THOSE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE IN CONTROL OF 99% OF THE POLITICAL POWER IN THE RICHEST NATION ON EARTH. REALITY PROVES THAT THEY MAY NOT BE AS EASY TO DISMISS AS YOU SEEM TO THINK THEY ARE.**

**But I'm curious to see how Neo will respond to the material below,**

**WELL THEN I GUESS IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY BECAUSE I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A FEW EXTRA MINUTES TO SPARE.**

**by a writer who knows God but is highly intelligent and whose thoughts far transcend the faulty institutional religions of earth. As a believer, (since about age 26) I'd like to see to see you eventually make the "leap of faith" too Stan.  Faith is not mere belief.**

**YOU ARE CORRECT, FAITH IS BELIEF, IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE.**

**FROM DICTIONARY.COM (DEFINITION #2):**

**"BELIEF THAT IS NOT BASED ON PROOF: HE HAD FAITH THAT THE HYPOTHESIS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIATED BY FACT."**

**It is more in the soul than in the mind.**

**THAT WOULD BE THE SOUL THAT NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO PROVE EXISTS? THAT SOUL?**

**(You have a soul, Stan, you just don't acknowledge it yet.)**

**AND WHY WOULD STAN ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF SOMETHING THAT ONLY EXISTS IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF OTHERS?**

**So anyway, read it and tell me what you think.**

**STAN'S A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW. HE ASKED ME TO REPLY.**

**SO LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT.**

**I've abridged it somewhat to tailor it to what I think you might resonate with, and to make it a little easier to read in one sitting.**

**--Dude**

**The Urantia Book**

**Paper 102:**

**The Foundations of Religious Faith**

**To the unbelieving materialist, man is simply an evolutionary accident.**

**SEE STRAW MAN ARGUMENT:**

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straw\_man\_argument**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straw_man_argument)

**THERE IS A LOT MORE TO EVOLUTION THAN CHANCE.**

**THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY CONTROL THE PROCESSES THAT DETERMINE EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT.**

**His hopes of survival are strung on a figment of mortal imagination;**

**ACTUALLY, SURVIVAL IS BASED ON THE ABILITY OF AN ORGANISM TO OUTRUN ITS ENEMIES AND ITS FOOD, REACH THE AGE OF REPRODUCTION, AND THEN SUCCESSFULLY MATE.**

**his fears, loves, longings, and beliefs are but the reaction of the incidental juxtaposition of certain lifeless atoms of matter.**

**STRAW MAN #2**

**(IF YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED, GO BACK TO THE LINK ABOVE).**

**No display of energy nor expression of trust can carry him beyond the grave.**

**BUT THE CHILD-LIKE MINDS OF BELIEVERS KNOW BETTER, DON'T THEY?**

**The devotional labors and inspirational genius of the best of men are doomed to be extinguished by death, the long and lonely night of eternal oblivion and soul extinction.**

**DUDE, WE'VE ALL ALREADY BEEN DEAD ONCE - FOR 13.7 BILLION YEARS.**

**WERE YOU LONELY? WAS IT LONG? WAS IT PAINFUL?**

**AS FOR THE SOUL GOING EXTINCT ... RELAX, THAT CAN'T HAPPEN. IT FIRST HAS TO EXIST BEFORE IT CAN GO EXTINCT.**

**Nameless despair is man’s only reward for living and toiling under the temporal sun of mortal existence.**

**WHAT A SAD, TRAGIC OUTLOOK ON LIFE YOU ATTRIBUTE TO OTHERS. PERHAPS IT REALLY REFLECTS YOUR OWN?**

**INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PUT WORDS IN THE MOUTHS OF NONBELIEVERS, LISTEN FOR A SECOND AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE REALLY BELIEVE: OUR REWARD FOR LIVING AND TOILING IS THE INCREDIBLE JOY OF EXISTENCE, OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, OF WONDERFUL HOBBIES THAT WE NEVER FIND ENOUGH TIME TO SPEND DOING, AND FOR MANY, THE FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE OF BRINGING NEW LIFE INTO THE WORLD AND LETTING THEM ENJOY ALL THE THINGS THAT BROUGHT US HAPPINESS.**

**YOU DON'T HAVE THE VAGUEST CLUE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MATERIALIST GROUNDED IN REALITY.**

**Each day of life slowly and surely tightens the grasp of a pitiless doom which a hostile and relentless universe of matter has decreed shall be the crowning insult to everything in human desire which is beautiful, noble, lofty, and good.**

**YOU COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT MORE BACKWARDS IF YOU TRIED.**

**IT IS THE FINALITY OF LIFE (DEATH) WHICH MAKES LIFE SO PRECIOUS.**

**IT IS THE BELIEF IN ETERNAL EXISTENCE THAT RENDERS THIS LIFE MEANINGLESS (YES, YOU MAY QUOTE THAT IF YOU LIKE).**

**But such is not man’s end and eternal destiny;**

**OH GOODY, YOU ARE NOW GOING TO PREDICT THE FUTURE.**

**WHAT DO YOU SEE MASTER?**

**such a vision is but the cry of despair uttered by some wandering soul who has become lost in spiritual darkness, and who bravely struggles on in the face of the mechanistic sophistries of a material philosophy, blinded by the confusion and distortion of a complex learning. And all this doom of darkness and all this destiny of despair are forever dispelled by one brave stretch of faith on the part of the most humble of God’s children on earth.**

**THE HIGHLIGHTED WORD IS THE ONE THAT DEFINES YOUR SIDE OF THE DEBATE.**

**FROM DICTIONARY.COM, SOPHISTRY:**

**1. a subtle, tricky, superficially plausible, but generally fallacious method of**

 **reasoning.**

**2. a false argument; sophism.**

**A BOOK REPORT ON URANTIA WOULD ONLY NEED TO BE 1 WORD LONG.**

**1. Assurances of Faith**

**There must be perfection hunger in man’s heart to insure capacity for comprehending the faith paths to supreme attainment. If any man chooses to do the divine will, he shall know the way of truth. It is literally true, “Human things must be known in order to be loved, but divine things must be loved in order to be known.”**

**HOW DO YOU KNOW IT IS LITERALLY TRUE?**

**But honest doubts and sincere questionings are not sin;**

**FINALLY, A POINT OF AGREEMENT.**

**THAT'S A GOOD SIGN I'M LEARNING, RIGHT?**

**such attitudes merely spell delay in the progressive journey toward perfection attainment. The reason of science is based on the observable facts of time;**

**THAT MAKES 2 POINTS OF AGREEMENT.**

**ONE MORE AND WE CAN HAVE SEX.**

**the faith of religion argues from the spirit program of eternity.**

**WTF?**

**What knowledge and reason cannot do for us, true wisdom admonishes us to allow faith to accomplish through religious insight and spiritual transformation.**

**LIKE WHAT?**

**Truth remains unchanged from generation to generation,**

**CHRISTIANS ONCE USED THE BIBLE TO SUPPORT SLAVERY, NOW THEY DON'T. THEY ALSO USED THE BIBLE TO SUPPORT AN EARTH-CENTERED COSMOS, AND THREATENED TO KILL ANYONE WHO BELIEVED OTHERWISE (GOOGLE: GALILEO).**

**APPARENTLY, TRUTH DOES CHANGE.**

**but the associated teachings about the physical world vary from year to year.**

**THAT'S CALLED LEARNING AND PROGRESS. DON'T WORRY, RELIGION HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE QUITE IMMUNE TO THAT VIRUS.**

**Eternal truth should not be slighted because it chances to be found in company with obsolete ideas regarding the material world.**

**FIRST YOU HAVE TO DEFINE ETERNAL TRUTH. THAT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE EVERY RELIGION DEFINES IT TO FIT ONLY THEIR BELIEFS.**

**The more of science you know, the less sure you can be;**

**MAYBE. BUT THE MORE SCIENCE YOU KNOW ... THE MORE YOU KNOW.**

**the more of religion you *have,* the more certain you are.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, BEING CERTAIN DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE RIGHT.**

**IT JUST MEANS YOU'RE CERTAIN.**

**The certainties of science proceed entirely from the intellect;**

**THERE ARE NO CERTAINTIES IN SCIENCE. YOU KEEP DEMONSTRATING A COMPLETE ABSENCE OF UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR OPPONENT'S POSITION. OR ...**

**YOU ARE PURPOSELY MISREPRESENTING IT.**

**(I'M BETTING ON THE LATTER).**

**the certitudes of religion spring from the very foundations of the *entire personality.* God is so all real and absolute that no material sign of proof or no demonstration of so-called miracle may be offered in testimony of his reality.**

**ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT?**

**THAT IS THE SAME ARGUMENT THE COOKIE MONSTER USES.**

**Always will we know him because we trust him.   The hungry soul of man refuses to be satisfied with anything less than the personal realization of the living God.**

**BY LIVING GOD, WHICH ONE ARE YOU REFERRING TO?**

**THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF INVISIBLE GHOSTS ALL MAKING THAT CLAIM.**

**HOW DO WE KNOW THAT YOURS IS THE ONE, TRUE INVISIBLE GHOST?**

**OH, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE?**

**2. Religion and Reality**

**It is difficult to identify and analyze the factors of a religious experience,**

**NO IT'S NOT.**

**ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS SIMPLY DELUSIONAL PEOPLE**

**ACTING LIKE IDIOTS, IT IS QUITE EASY TO COMPREHEND.**

**but it is not difficult to observe that such religious practitioners live and carry on as if already in the presence of the Eternal. Believers react to this temporal life as if immortality already were within their grasp.**

**(SEE LAST COMMENT).**

**In the lives of such mortals there is a valid originality and a spontaneity of expression that forever segregate them from those of their fellows who have imbibed only the wisdom of the world.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, THEY AREN'T SEGREGATED ENOUGH.**

**Religionists seem to live in effective emancipation from harrying haste and the painful stress of the vicissitudes inherent in the temporal currents of time;**

**SEEM TO?**

**they exhibit a stabilization of personality and a tranquillity of character not explained by the laws of physiology, psychology, and sociology.**

**I WOULD REPLACE 2 WORDS IN THAT SENTENCE.**

**CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONES?**

**Time is an invariable element in the attainment of knowledge;**

**YOU HAVEN'T READ MUCH ABOUT EINSTEIN'S RELATIVITY HAVE YOU?**

**religion makes its endowments immediately available,**

**NO IT DOESN'T.**

**YOU CAN'T HAVE ETERNAL LIFE UNTIL AFTER YOU DIE.**

**albeit there is the important factor of growth in grace, definite advancement in all phases of religious experience. Knowledge is an eternal quest; always are you learning, but never are you able to arrive at the full knowledge of absolute truth.**

**THAT DOESN'T ACTUALLY APPLY TO EVERYONE.**

**In knowledge alone there can never be absolute certainty, only increasing probability of approximation;**

**THAT WAS BRILLIANT.**

**NO, I'M NOT BEING SARCASTIC - THAT WAS BRILLIANT.**

**but the religious soul of spiritual illumination *knows,* and knows *now.***

**THAT WAS EQUALLY AS "UNBRILLIANT."**

**And yet this profound and positive certitude does not lead such a sound-minded religionist**

**FROM DICTIONARY.COM, OXYMORON:**

**"A FIGURE OF SPEECH BY WHICH A LOCUTION PRODUCES AN INCONGRUOUS, SEEMINGLY SELF-CONTRADICTORY EFFECT, AS IN “CRUEL KINDNESS” OR “TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY.”**

**to take any less interest in the ups and downs of the progress of human wisdom, which is bound up on its material end with the developments of slow-moving science.**

**IT WOULD MOVE A LOT FASTER IF WE DIDN'T HAVE BILLIONS OF IMBECILES**

**SPENDING HALF THEIR TIME IN THE FANTASY REALM.**

**Even the discoveries of science are not truly *real* in the consciousness of human experience until they are unraveled and correlated, until their relevant facts actually become *meaning* through encircuitment in the thought streams of mind.**

**I THINK GUNSHOT VICTIMS MIGHT HAVE A SMALL DISAGREEMENT WITH YOU.**

**Mortal man views even his physical environment from the mind level, from the perspective of its psychological registry. Evolutionary man does not naturally relish hard work.**

**SO DO - SOME DON'T.**

**THE ONES WHO DO, GET REWARDED.**

**THE ONES WHO DON'T, TAKE FROM THE ONES WHO DO.**

**To keep pace in his life experience with the impelling demands and the compelling urges of a growing religious experience means incessant activity in spiritual growth, intellectual expansion, factual enlargement, and social service.**

**HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL EXPANSION? OH SORRY, I FORGOT ABOUT "INVERSELY."**

**YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY ARE RELATED.**

**There is no real religion apart from a highly active personality. Therefore do the more indolent of men often seek to escape the rigors of truly religious activities by a species of ingenious self-deception through resorting to a retreat to the false shelter of stereotyped religious doctrines and dogmas. But true religion is alive.**

**TRUE, BUT HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.**

**Intellectual crystallization of religious concepts is the equivalent of spiritual death. You cannot conceive of religion without ideas, but when religion once becomes reduced only to an *idea,* it is no longer religion; it has become merely a species of human philosophy.**

**I FOUND THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF "THE ARGUMENT FROM VERBOSITY" TO BE A PERFECT DESCRIPTION OF "URANTIA":**

**"ARGUMENTUM VERBOSIUM IS ALSO KNOWN AS PROOF BY INTIMIDATION, OR PROOF BY VERBOSITY. IT REFERS TO AN ARGUMENT THAT IS SO COMPLEX, SO LONG-WINDED, AND SO POORLY PRESENTED BY THE ARGUER THAT YOU ARE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT IT, SIMPLY TO AVOID BEING FORCED TO SIFT THROUGH ITS MINUTE DETAILS. THIS FALLACY IS EPITOMIZED BY THE STATEMENT:**

**“IF YOU CAN’T DAZZLE THEM WITH YOUR BRILLIANCE, THEN BAFFLE THEM WITH YOUR BULLSHIT.”**

**THERE IS NO WAY THAT I COULD HAVE SAID IT ANY BETTER, AND THAT APPLIES TO THIS ENTIRE PILE OF CRAP.**

**Again, there are other types of unstable and poorly disciplined souls who would use the sentimental ideas of religion as an avenue of escape from the irritating demands of living. When certain vacillating and timid mortals attempt to escape from the incessant pressure of evolutionary life, religion, as they conceive it, seems to present the nearest refuge, the best avenue of escape. But it is the mission of religion to prepare man for bravely, even heroically, facing the vicissitudes of life.**

**BY ESCAPING TO FANTASYLAND?**

**We are not blind to the fact that religion often acts unwisely, even irreligiously, but it *acts.* Aberrations of religious conviction have led to bloody persecutions, but always and ever religion does something; it is dynamic!**

**I'VE NEVER HEARD WITCH-BURNING DESCRIBED AS DYNAMIC BEFORE.**

**I GUESS IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHICH SIDE OF THE MATCH YOU ARE ON.**

**JESUS H. CHRIST, DON'T TELL ME THERE'S STILL MORE.**

**3. Knowledge, Wisdom, and Insight**

**The intellectual factors of religion are important,**

**WHAT INTELLECTUAL FACTORS OF RELIGION?**

**I'M NOT QUESTIONING THEIR IMPORTANCE, I'M QUESTIONING THEIR EXISTENCE.**

**but their overdevelopment is likewise sometimes very handicapping and embarrassing.**

**YEAH, I'M SURE IT'S VERY EMBARRASSING TO BE SO INTELLECTUAL,**

**NOT THAT I WOULD KNOW PERSONALLY.**

**Religion must continually labor under a paradoxical necessity: the necessity of making effective use of thought while at the same time discounting the spiritual serviceableness of all thinking. Religious desire is the hunger quest for divine reality.**

**OXYMORON ALERT!**

**Religious experience is the realization of the consciousness of having found God.**

**THE ODD THING IS THAT, THE GOD THEY FIND ALMOST ALWAYS MATCHES**

**THE GODS THAT ARE LOCALLY AVAILABLE.**

**IN AMERICA THEY USUALLY FIND THE CHRISTIAN GOD;**

**IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY ALMOST ALWAYS FIND ALLAH;**

**IN ....**

**And when a human being does find God, there is experienced within the soul of that being such an indescribable restlessness of triumph in discovery that he is impelled to seek loving service-contact with his less illuminated fellows, not to disclose that he has found God, but rather to allow the overflow of the welling-up of eternal goodness within his own soul to refresh and ennoble his fellows.**

**WELL, I HAVE BEEN CALLED WORSE.**

**Real religion leads to increased social service. Knowledge leads to placing men, to originating social strata and castes. Religion leads to serving men, thus creating ethics and altruism.**

**I HOPE YOU AREN'T REFERRING TO THE ETHICS IN THE BIBLE, THEY'RE DISGUSTING.**

**YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ALTRUISM IF IT KICKED YOU IN THE BALLS.**

**WHEN RELIGIOUS PEOPLE GIVE, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE EXPECTING HEAVENLY REWARDS. NONBELIEVERS EXPECT NOTHING IN RETURN - *THAT*  IS ALTRUISM.**

**Wisdom leads to the higher and better fellowship of both ideas and one’s fellows. Revelation liberates men and starts them out on the eternal adventure.**

**I WOULDN'T COUNT ON THE "ETERNAL" PART.**

**Science sorts men; religion loves men, even as yourself;**

**THE ONLY LOVE I SEE IN RELIGION USUALLY INVOLVES THE LOVE OF KILLING THOSE ... WHO BELONG TO OTHER RELIGIONS.**

**wisdom does justice to differing men; but revelation glorifies man and discloses his capacity for partnership with God.**

**ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, CHRISTIANITY GLORIFIES GOD AND CONSIDERS MAN A SINNER WORTHY OF ETERNAL TORTURE.**

**MAYBE YOU'RE REFERRING TO A DIFFERENT GOD?**

**Science vainly strives to create the brotherhood of culture;**

**SCIENCE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CREATING CULTURE.**

**HUMANS USE THE DISCOVERIES OF SCIENCE TO HELP THEM IMPROVE CULTURE.**

**religion brings into being the brotherhood of the spirit.**

**OKAY, WE AGREE. THAT MAKES 3.**

**NOW WE CAN HAVE SEX.**

**Philosophy strives for the brotherhood of wisdom; revelation portrays the eternal brotherhood, the Paradise Corps of the Finality.**

***[Stan, there is a whole paper on this topic.  It is a very distant future potential reality for all of us.]***

**PLEASE DO NOT TALK TO THE VICTIM UNTIL THE DEBATE IS OVER.**

**Knowledge yields pride in the fact of personality; wisdom is the consciousness of the meaning of personality; religion is the experience of cognizance of the value of personality; revelation is the assurance of personality survival.**

**I COULDN'T FIND ANY OF THOSE DEFINITIONS IN THE DICTIONARY.**

**ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T JUST MAKING STUFF UP?**

**Science seeks to identify, analyze, and classify the segmented parts of the limitless cosmos.**

**IT MUST HAVE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB BECAUSE ALL THAT IDENTIFYING, ANALYZING, AND CLASSIFYING ... GOT US TO THE MOON.**

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW FAR ALONG WE WOULD BE IF WE BASED OUR BELIEFS ON RELIGION INSTEAD OF SCIENCE, BOOK A CRUISE TO SAUDI ARABIA.**

**Religion grasps the idea-of-the-whole, the entire cosmos.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, IT DOESN'T GRASP IT VERY WELL.**

**GOD THOUGHT THE SUN WAS CIRCLING THE EARTH (JOSHUA 10:13).**

**Philosophy attempts the identification of the material segments of science with the spiritual-insight concept of the whole. Wherein philosophy fails in this attempt, revelation succeeds, affirming that the cosmic circle is universal, eternal, absolute, and infinite.**

**THE 2ND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS REFUTES THE CONCEPT OF "ETERNAL."**

**This cosmos of the Infinite I AM is therefore endless, limitless, and all-inclusive ­ timeless, spaceless, and unqualified.**

**FROM DICTIONARY.COM, GIBBERISH:**

**"MEANINGLESS OR UNINTELLIGIBLE TALK OR WRITING."**

**I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT THE SEX. HAVING SEX WITH SOMEONE WHO IS MENTALLY INCOMPETENT TO CONSENT, IS A FELONY ...**

**AND I'VE STILL GOT 6 MONTHS LEFT ON PAROLE.**

**In science, the idea precedes the expression of its realization; in religion, the experience of realization precedes the expression of the idea.**

**AND THAT'S THE BASIC PROBLEM. GHOST WORSHIPPERS DO EVERYTHING BACKWARDS: THEY START WITH THE ANSWERS.**

**SCIENCE FINDS THEM.**

**There is a vast difference between the evolutionary will-to-believe and the product of enlightened reason, religious insight, and revelation the *will that believes.* Science is only satisfied with first causes, religion with supreme personality, and philosophy with unity.**

**SCIENCE IS NEVER SATISFIED. IT IS ONLY RELIGION THAT BELIEVES IT IS ALREADY IN POSSESSION OF ALL THE ANSWERS.**

**Revelation affirms that these three are one, and that all are good. The *eternal real* is the good of the universe and not the time illusions of space evil.**

**WHATEVER YOU'RE SMOKIN' - I GOT TO GET ME SOME OF THAT.**

**In the spiritual experience of all personalities, always is it true that the real is the good and the good is the real.**

**PLEASE GOD, PUT AN END TO THIS AGONY SOON, AND I PROMISE NOT TO BE MEAN TO THE NEXT PAIR OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WHO COME TO MY DOOR.**

**4. The Fact of Experience**

**Because of the presence in your minds of the Thought Adjuster,**

***[Stan, this is the fragment of God that indwells you.  There are 5 full papers on this topic.]***

**DUDE, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK STAN ACTUALLY READ THIS?**

**I KNOW HE DIDN'T BECAUSE IF HE HAD HE WOULD PROBABLY BE UNDERGOING EMERGENCY BRAIN SURGERY RIGHT NOW TO RESTORE THE FRIED SECTIONS OF HIS CEREBELLUM.**

**EVEN I CAN ONLY GET THROUGH THIS STUFF AS LONG AS MY BRAIN IS PROTECTED BY MY TIN FOIL HAT.**

**it is no more of a mystery for you to know the mind of God than for you to be sure of the consciousness of knowing any other mind, human or superhuman. Religion and social consciousness have this in common: They are predicated on the consciousness of other-mindness. What is human experience? It is simply any interplay between an active and questioning self and any other active and external reality.**

**THAT KIND OF LEAVES YOUR GOD OUT IN THE COLD THEN, DOESN'T IT?**

**The mass of experience is determined by depth of concept plus totality of recognition of the reality of the external.**

**(HE'S DOING IT AGAIN).**

**The motion of experience equals the force of expectant imagination plus the keenness of the sensory discovery of the external qualities of contacted reality.**

**ANYONE WHO FALLS FOR MINDLESS DRIVEL LIKE THIS NEEDS TO SERIOUSLY EVALUATE THE OPTION OF SEEKING PROFESSIONAL HELP.**

**The fact of experience is found in self-consciousness plus other-existences ­ other-thingness, other-mindness, and other-spiritness.**

**... OTHER-BULLSHITNESS.**

**Man very early becomes conscious that he is not alone in the world or the universe.**

**PROBABLY BECAUSE NO ONE HAS YET BEEN BORN WITHOUT PARENTS.**

**There develops a natural spontaneous self-consciousness of other-mindness in the environment of selfhood. Faith translates this natural experience into religion, the recognition of God as the reality source, nature, and destiny of *other-mindness.***

**AND THAT IS WHERE FAITH LEADS YOU ASTRAY: AWAY FROM REALITY AND INTO THE CHILD-LIKE WORLD OF FANTASY; AND IT'S NOT AS NICE A PLACE AS YOU WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE.**

**But such a knowledge of God is ever and always a reality of personal experience.**

**SWAP THE HIGHLIGHT FOR THE PROPER WORD "DELUSION" AND I'LL SIGN.**

**If God were not a personality, he could not become a living part of the real religious experience of a human personality. The element of error present in human religious experience is directly proportional to the content of materialism which contaminates the spiritual concept of the Universal Father.**

**TRUE.**

**EXCEPT THAT YOU SHOULD CHANGE "CONTAMINATES" TO "ELIMINATES."**

**Man’s prespirit progression in the universe consists in the experience of divesting himself of these erroneous ideas of the nature of God and of the reality of pure and true spirit.**

**WHAT REALITY?**

**Revealed religion is the unifying element of human existence.**

**UNLESS YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT RELIGION.**

**Revelation unifies history, co-ordinates geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, sociology, and psychology.**

**THE ONLY "OLOGY" THAT MIGHT SUPPORT REVELATION WOULD BE ASTROLOGY.**

**Spiritual experience is the real soul of man’s cosmos.**

**WHAT!  THERE'S MORE? NO, PLEASE. WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS?**

**5. The Supremacy of Purposive Potential**

**Although the establishment of the fact of belief is not equivalent to establishing the fact of that which is believed, nevertheless, the evolutionary progression of simple life to the status of personality does demonstrate the fact of the existence of the potential of personality to start with. And in the time universes, potential is always supreme over the actual.**

**AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING REDUNDANT, WTF?**

**In the evolving cosmos the potential is what is to be, and what is to be is the unfolding of the purposive mandates of Deity. This same purposive supremacy is shown in the evolution of mind ideation when primitive animal fear is transmuted into the constantly deepening reverence for God and into increasing awe of the universe.**

**I'LL ACCEPT THE "INCREASING AWE OF THE UNIVERSE" PART.**

**BUT I'LL PASS ON THE REVERENCE, SINCE I FEEL ONLY UTTER DISGUST AND CONTEMPT FOR YOUR GOD.**

**Primitive man had more religious fear than faith, and the supremacy of spirit potentials over mind actuals is demonstrated when this craven fear is translated into living faith in spiritual realities.**

**ANOTHER OXYMORON ALERT!**

**You can psychologize evolutionary religion but not the personal-experience religion of spiritual origin. Human morality may recognize values, but only religion can conserve, exalt, and spiritualize such values.**

**AND "EXECUTE" SUCH VALUES. NOTICE THE EMPHASIS ON THE WORD EXECUTE?**

**IT WASN'T A TYPO.**

**But notwithstanding such actions, religion is something more than emotionalized morality. Religion is to morality as love is to duty, as sonship is to servitude, as essence is to substance. Morality discloses an almighty Controller, a Deity to be served;**

**OH YOU MEAN SLAVERY. YES, NOW I RECOGNIZE YOUR DEITY.**

**HE'S THE ONE DESCRIBED IN YOUR BIBLE.**

**religion discloses an all-loving Father, a God to be worshiped and loved.**

**NOW I'M CONFUSED. I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN GOD? WHERE DID THIS NEW ONE COME FROM?**

**And again this is because the spiritual potentiality of religion is dominant over the duty actuality of morality.**

**I GIVE UP. I CAN'T GO ON.**

**HOW MANY MORE? JUST 3?**

**OKAY. BUT MY BRAIN WILL BE ACHING FROM THIS FOR A MONTH.**

**6. The Certainty of Religious Faith**

**The philosophic elimination of religious fear and the steady progress of science add greatly to the mortality of false gods;**

**YET HERE YOU ARE. PROVING THAT EVEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY THERE ARE STILL MANY WHO REFUSE TO GROW UP AND GIVE UP CHILDISH FANTASIES FOR REALITY.**

**and even though these casualties of man-made deities may momentarily befog the spiritual vision, they eventually destroy that ignorance and superstition which so long obscured the living God of eternal love.**

**OH I SEE. ALL THOSE OTHER INVISIBLE GHOSTS WERE FANTASIES.**

**BUT YOUR INVISIBLE GHOST IS THE ONE, TRUE INVISIBLE GHOST.**

**COINCIDENTALLY, THAT'S WHAT ALL THOSE BEFORE YOU CLAIMED AS WELL.**

**The relation between the creature and the Creator is a living experience, a dynamic religious faith, which is not subject to precise definition.**

**I WOULD SETTLE FOR *ANY* DEFINITION.**

**YOU WON'T GIVE ONE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DEFEND IT.**

**To isolate part of life and call it religion is to disintegrate life and to distort religion. And this is just why the God of worship claims all allegiance or none. The gods of primitive men may have been no more than shadows of themselves; the living God is the divine light whose interruptions constitute the creation shadows of all space.**

**SO WHY DID YOUR GOD ALLOW HUMANS TO BELIEVE IN ALL THOSE FAKE ONES FOR SO LONG BEFORE FINALLY SHOWING US THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD?**

**The religionist of philosophic attainment has faith in a personal God of personal salvation, something more than a power, a reality, a value, a level of achievement, an exalted process, a transmutation, the ultimate of time-space, an idealization, the personalization of energy, the entity of gravity, a human projection, the idealization of self, nature’s upthrust, the inclination to goodness, the forward impulse of evolution, or a sublime hypothesis.**

**THAT SENTENCE SHOULD HAVE ENDED WHERE HIGHLIGHTED.**

**THAT'S RIGHT, THAT WASN'T A PARAGRAPH - IT WAS A SENTENCE.**

**HINT: INSTEAD OF HOLDING DOWN THE COMMA KEY FOREVER,**

 **LEARN HOW TO USE A BULLETED LIST.**

**The religionist has faith in a God of love.**

**WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS?**

**THEY'RE RELIGIONISTS AREN'T THEY?**

**THEY NOT ONLY BELIEVE IN, BUT ACTUALLY WORSHIP, A MURDEROUS, BRUTAL MONSTER WHO PLANS TO TORTURE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY.**

**Love is the essence of religion and the wellspring of superior civilization.**

**THEN YOU CAN'T BE TALKING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY OR ISLAM.**

**THE CLOSEST RELIGIONS TO YOUR DESCRIPTION THAT I CAN THINK OF WOULD BE THE JAINS AND THE BUDDHISTS.**

**Faith transforms the philosophic God of probability into the saving God of certainty in the personal religious experience. Skepticism may challenge the theories of theology, but confidence in the dependability of personal experience affirms the truth of that belief which has grown into faith.**

**FAITH IS NOT SOMETHING YOU GROW INTO.**

**FAITH IS SOMETHING YOU GROW OUT OF ...**

**IF YOU'RE LUCKY.**

**Convictions about God may be arrived at through wise reasoning,**

**THAT WOULD BE A GREAT SLOGAN TO PUT ON A BUS TO PROMOTE ...**

**ATHEISM.**

**but the individual becomes God-knowing only by faith,**

**BULLSEYE!**

**through personal experience. In much that pertains to life, probability must be reckoned with, but when contacting with cosmic reality, certainty may be experienced when such meanings and values are approached by living faith. The God-knowing soul dares to say, “I know,” even when this knowledge of God is questioned by the unbeliever who denies such certitude because it is not wholly supported by intellectual logic.**

**IT'S NOT SUPPORTED BY *ANY* INTELLECTUAL LOGIC.**

**To every such doubter the believer only replies, “How do you know that I do not know?”**

**FROM THE NIZKOR PROJECT:**

**"BURDEN OF PROOF IS A FALLACY IN WHICH THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS PLACED ON THE WRONG SIDE."**

**TRYING TO SHIFT THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS AN ARGUMENT FROM IGNORANCE. IT IS NOT OUR DUTY TO DISPROVE YOUR CLAIMS. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROVE THEM.**

**Though reason can always question faith, faith can always supplement both reason and logic.**

**IN WHAT WAY?**

**Reason creates the probability which faith can transform into a moral certainty, even a spiritual experience.**

**YET YOU PEOPLE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PROVE THAT MORAL CERTAINTY EXISTS.**

**God is the first truth and the last fact; therefore does all truth take origin in him, while all facts exist relative to him. God is absolute truth. As truth one may know God, but to understand ­ to explain ­ God, one must explore the fact of the universe of universes. The vast gulf between the experience of the truth of God and ignorance as to the fact of God can be bridged only by living faith. Reason alone cannot achieve harmony between infinite truth and universal fact.**

**ASSUMING INFINITE TRUTH AND UNIVERSAL FACT EXIST.**

**YOU HAVEN'T PROVED THAT YET.**

**Belief may not be able to resist doubt and withstand fear, but faith is always triumphant over doubting, for faith is both positive and living.**

**FAITH IS TRIUMPHANT OVER DOUBTING - ONLY FOR THE IGNORANT.**

**The positive always has the advantage over the negative, truth over error, experience over theory, spiritual realities over the isolated facts of time and space.**

**THERE IS ONE TERM IN THAT STATEMENT THAT HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN TO EXIST. UNTIL IT HAS BEEN, YOUR CONCLUSION IS TRUE ... ONLY IN YOUR MIND.**

**To science God is a possibility, to psychology a desirability, to philosophy a probability, to religion a certainty, an actuality of religious experience.**

**YOU JUST WENT DOWN THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.**

**NOTICE, I USED THE WORD "DOWN."**

**Reason demands that a philosophy which cannot find the God of probability should be very respectful of that religious faith which can and does find the God of certitude.**

**REASON NEVER DEMANDS.**

**REASON IS A TOOL WE USE TO ARRIVE AT CONCLUSIONS.**

**RELIGION STARTS WITH CONCLUSIONS**

**AND THEN SEARCHES FOR REASONS TO JUSTIFY THOSE CONCLUSIONS.**

**I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR RELIGION OR FAITH.**

**RESPECT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE EARNED.**

**RELIGION HAS YET TO EARN THAT RESPECT.**

**Neither should science discount religious experience on grounds of credulity, not so long as it persists in the assumption that man’s intellectual and philosophic endowments emerged from increasingly lesser intelligences the further back they go, finally taking origin in primitive life which was utterly devoid of all thinking and feeling.**

**SCIENCE DOES NOT DISCOUNT RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE ON GROUNDS OF CREDULITY BUT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT HAS PRODUCED ZERO EVIDENCE**

**TO SUPPORT ITS CLAIMS.**

**SCIENCE DOES NOT PERSIST IN AN *ASSUMPTION* OF EVOLUTION, SCIENCE PERSISTS IN ACCEPTING EVOLUTION BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE TRUE.**

**HOW BADLY YOU MUST WISH YOU COULD MAKE THAT CLAIM.**

**The facts of evolution must not be arrayed against the truth of the reality of the certainty of the spiritual experience of the religious living of the God-knowing mortal. Intelligent men should cease to reason like children and should attempt to use the consistent logic of adulthood,**

**IF PEOPLE DID THAT, ALL RELIGION WOULD BEGIN TO DIE.**

**I THINK YOURS WOULD GO FIRST.**

**logic which tolerates the concept of truth alongside the observation of fact.**

**TRUTH AND FACT ARE INSEPARABLE.**

**Scientific materialism has gone bankrupt when it persists, in the face of each recurring universe phenomenon, in refunding its current objections by referring what is admittedly higher back into that which is admittedly lower. Consistency demands the recognition of the activities of a purposive Creator.**

**WHEN YOUR PURPOSIVE CREATOR MAKES A BABY WITH 2 HEADS, WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT CONSISTENT WITH?**

**Organic evolution is a fact;**

**WAIT - STOP!  I SEE A RAY OF HOPE.**

**NOW YOU'RE RUINING EVERYTHING.**

**purposive or progressive evolution is a truth which makes consistent the otherwise contradictory phenomena of the ever-ascending achievements of evolution. The higher any scientist progresses in his chosen science, the more will he abandon the theories of materialistic fact in favor of the cosmic truth of the dominance of the Supreme Mind.**

**WHAT POLLS HAVE YOU BEEN READING?**

**THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF "BEING IN DENIAL."**

**Mortal existence must be visualized as consisting in the intriguing and fascinating experience of the realization of the reality of the meeting of the human upreach and the divine and saving downreach.**

**HOLY CHRIST, MY TORTURE IS NOT OVER YET.**

**MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE THERE IS A GOD.**

**ONLY THAT COULD EXPLAIN WHY I AM BEING PUT THROUGH THIS TORTURE.**

**7. The Certitude of the Divine**

**The Universal Father, being self-existent, is also self-explanatory;**

**CAN YOU NAME ONE THING THAT ISN'T SELF-EXISTENT?**

**he actually lives in every rational mortal.**

**SO WHEN 2 PEOPLE FIGHT, HE IS ACTUALLY FIGHTING ...**

**HIMSELF?**

**But you cannot be sure about God unless you know him; sonship is the only experience which makes fatherhood certain.**

**DOESN'T SAY MUCH FOR WOMEN DOES IT?**

**(I'VE YET TO FIND A RELIGION THAT DOES).**

**The universe is everywhere undergoing change. A changing universe is a dependent universe; such a creation cannot be either final or absolute. A finite universe is wholly dependent on the Ultimate and the Absolute.**

**WELL THEN, WE CAN'T BE DEPENDENT ON THE ULTIMATE AND THE ABSOLUTE, BECAUSE YOU SAID EARLIER:**

**"This cosmos of the Infinite I AM is therefore endless, limitless, and all-inclusive ­ timeless, spaceless, and unqualified."**

**KINDA KILLED YOUR OWN ARGUMENT DIDN'T YA?**

**The universe and God are not identical; one is cause, the other effect.**

**NICE ASSERTION.**

**FROM DICTIONARY.COM, ASSERTION:**

**"A POSITIVE STATEMENT OR DECLARATION, OFTEN WITHOUT SUPPORT OR REASON."**

**The cause is absolute, infinite, eternal, and changeless;**

**AND INVISIBLE.**

**the effect, time-space and transcendental but ever changing, always growing. God is the one and only self-caused fact in the universe.**

**AND YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE ... HE SAID SO?**

**He is the secret of the order, plan, and purpose of the whole creation of things and beings.**

**MAYBE A LITTLE ... TOO SECRET.**

**The everywhere-changing universe is regulated and stabilized by absolutely unchanging laws, the habits of an unchanging God.**

**LAWS HAVE CHANGED:**

**THERE WERE NO LAWS TO GOVERN ATOMS, UNTIL ATOMS FORMED ABOUT 380,000 YEARS AFTER THE BIG BANG.**

**GOD HAS CHANGED:**

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT HE DEMANDED AN EYE FOR AN EYE.**

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HE SAID TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK.**

**YOU CALL THAT "AN UNCHANGING GOD?"**

**The fact of God, the divine law, is changeless; the truth of God, his relation to the universe, is a relative revelation which is ever adaptable to the constantly evolving universe. Those who would invent a religion without God are like those who would gather fruit without trees, have children without parents.**

**CHILDREN CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT PARENTS.**

**ARBOREAL FRUIT CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT TREES.**

**BUT THERE ARE RELIGIONS WITHOUT GOD. IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE RELIGION.**

**You cannot have effects without causes;**

**BUT CAUSES MAY BE PROBABILISTIC, MEANING THAT AN EFFECT MAY OCCUR AS THE RESULT OF THE RANDOM SELECTION OF ONE, OUT OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE OUTCOMES (GOOGLE: QUANTUM THEORY).**

**NO GOD IS REQUIRED FOR THAT SCENARIO.**

**only the I AM is causeless.**

**WHERE ARE MY SUICIDE PILLS?**

**The fact of religious experience implies God, and such a God of personal experience must be a personal Deity. You cannot pray to a chemical formula, supplicate a mathematical equation, worship a hypothesis, confide in a postulate, commune with a process, serve an abstraction, or hold loving fellowship with a law.**

**ANY OF THOSE THINGS YOU JUST DESCRIBED MAKE AS MUCH SENSE AS PRAYING TO AN INVISIBLE GHOST.**

**True, many apparently religious traits can grow out of nonreligious roots. Man can, intellectually, deny God and yet be morally good, loyal, filial, honest, and even idealistic. Man may graft many purely humanistic branches onto his basic spiritual nature and thus apparently prove his contentions in behalf of a godless religion, but such an experience is devoid of survival values, God-knowingness and God-ascension.**

**I'LL GRANT YOU TWO OF THE THREE.**

**In such a mortal experience only social fruits are forthcoming, not spiritual.**

**AND YOU SEE THAT AS A BAD THING?**

**The graft determines the nature of the fruit, notwithstanding that the living sustenance is drawn from the roots of original divine endowment of both mind and spirit. The God-knowing individual is not one who is blind to the difficulties or unmindful of the obstacles which stand in the way of finding God in the maze of superstition, tradition, and materialistic tendencies of modern times. He has encountered all these deterrents and triumphed over them, surmounted them by living faith, and attained the highlands of spiritual experience in spite of them. But it is true that many who are inwardly sure about God fear to assert such feelings of certainty because of the multiplicity and cleverness of those who assemble objections and magnify difficulties about believing in God.**

**OBJECTIONS TO BELIEVING IN GOD DO NOT NEED TO BE ASSEMBLED;**

**THE BIBLE HAS ALREADY DONE THAT FOR US.**

**It requires no great depth of intellect to pick flaws, ask questions, or raise objections.**

**YES IT DOES.**

**But it does require brilliance of mind to answer these questions and solve these difficulties; faith certainty is the greatest technique for dealing with all such superficial contentions.**

**FAITH AND CERTAINTY ARE NOT TECHNIQUES.**

**ONE IS THE SURRENDER OF ONE'S REASONING ABILITIES,**

**AND THE OTHER IS A LOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITY.**

**I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOUR BRILLIANT MIND TO FIGURE OUT WHICH IS WHICH.**

**If science, philosophy, or sociology dares to become dogmatic in contending with the prophets of true religion, then should God-knowing men reply to such unwarranted dogmatism with that more farseeing dogmatism of the certainty of personal spiritual experience, “I know what I have experienced because I am a son of I AM.”**

**JESUS FUCKING H. CHRIST.**

**MY PILLS ARE GONE, MY GUN IS EMPTY, AND I LIVE ON THE FIRST FLOOR. HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS? WHERE IS KEVORKIAN WHEN I NEED HIM?**

**If the personal experience of a faither is to be challenged by dogma, then this faith-born son of the experiencible Father may reply with that unchallengeable dogma, the statement of his actual sonship with the Universal Father.**

**WELL, WE ALREADY KNOW YOU CAN'T REPLY WITH EVIDENCE.**

**If the nonreligious approaches to cosmic reality presume to challenge the certainty of faith on the grounds of its unproved status, then the spirit experiencer can likewise resort to the dogmatic challenge of the facts of science and the beliefs of philosophy on the grounds that they are likewise unproved;**

**IF THEY WEREN'T PROVED, THEY WOULDN'T BE "THE FACTS OF SCIENCE."**

**they are likewise experiences in the consciousness of the scientist or the philosopher.**

**BUT THOSE EXPERIENCES, UNLIKE YOURS, ARE BASED ON PROVABLE SCIENTIFIC FACT.**

**Of God, the most inescapable of all presences,**

**UNFORTUNATELY THAT IS TRUE.**

**EVERYWHERE YOU GO ... GHOST WORSHIPPERS.**

**the most real of all facts,**

**IF YOU HAD FACTS ... YOU WOULDN'T NEED FAITH.**

**the most living of all truths, the most loving of all friends,**

**PROVIDED YOU DON'T PICK THE WRONG RELIGION.**

**and the most divine of all values, we have the right to be the most certain of all universe experiences.**

**FINALLY, WE'RE AT THE LAST ONE.**

**I DON'T KNOW HOW I SURVIVED HAVING MY BRAIN PUT THROUGH THIS MEAT GRINDER.**

**I GUESS IT'S SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT.**

**8. The Evidences of Religion**

**The highest evidence of the reality and efficacy of religion consists in the *fact of human experience;***

**SO IN OTHER WORDS, WE AREN'T GETTING ANY EVIDENCE, ARE WE?**

**namely, that man, naturally fearful and suspicious, innately endowed with a strong instinct of self-preservation**

**I THINK THAT DESCRIBES PRETTY MUCH EVERY LIFEFORM ON THE PLANET.**

**IF IT DOESN'T, THEY USUALLY DON'T LIVE VERY LONG.**

**and craving survival after death,**

**NOW THAT IS A UNIQUELY HUMAN CHARACTERISTIC (AS FAR AS WE KNOW).**

**is willing fully to trust the deepest interests of his present and future to the keeping and direction of that power and person designated by his faith as God.**

**THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE BILLION EARTHLINGS WHO DON'T?**

**That is the one central truth of all religion. As to what that power or person requires of man in return for this watchcare and final salvation, no two religions agree; in fact, they all more or less disagree.**

**UH-OH. BETTER CHOOSE CAREFULLY BELIEVER.**

**WHAT IF YOU ARE WRONG?**

**Man has always thought of God in the terms of the best he knew, his deepest ideas and highest ideals.**

**I DON'T.**

**I THINK YOUR GOD SUCKS.**

**Even historic religion has always created its God conceptions out of its highest recognized values. Every intelligent creature gives the name of God to the best and highest thing he knows.**

**THEN I MUST NOT BE VERY INTELLIGENT BECAUSE I GAVE THE NAME OF THE BEST AND HIGHEST THING I EVER KNEW TO THE GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL THAT I COULD NEVER HAVE, LOLA DEL MUNDO.**

**IF YOU EVER SAW HER ... YOU WOULD AGREE.**

**While personal religion precedes the evolution of human morals,**

**DO YOU HAVE A SOURCE FOR THAT ASSERTION?**

**it is regretfully recorded that institutional religion has invariably lagged behind the slowly changing mores of the human races.**

**TALK ABOUT AN UNDERSTATEMENT.**

**Organized religion has proved to be conservatively tardy. The prophets have usually led the people in religious development; the theologians have usually held them back.**

**OR IN THE CASE OF PRIESTS, HELD THE CHILDREN DOWN.**

**Religion, being a matter of inner or personal experience, can never develop very far in advance of the intellectual evolution of the races. But religion is never enhanced by an appeal to the so-called miraculous. The quest for miracles is a harking back to the primitive religions of magic.**

**AND YOUR RELIGION DOESN'T?**

**AREN'T YOU THE GUYS WHO SAID THAT AN INVISIBLE GHOST, WHO HAS ALWAYS EXISTED, CREATED EVERYTHING BY MAGIC?**

**True religion has nothing to do with alleged miracles, and never does revealed religion point to miracles as proof of authority.**

**I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU JUST MANAGED TO PISS OFF THE CHRISTIANS MORE THAN I EVER HAVE. THAT'S QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT.**

**Religion is ever and always rooted and grounded in personal experience.**

**NOW IT'S MY TURN**

**DUDE, THIS ALL STARTED WHEN YOUR FRIEND STAN SENT YOU AN EMAIL SO YOU COULD SEE A PHOTO OF THE JERK, KIRK CAMERON, MOCKING A DISABLED MAN. YOU THEN REPLIED TO HIM WITH THE EMAIL ABOVE WHERE YOU CRITICIZE PEOPLE (LIKE ME) WHO DARE TO POINT OUT CRUEL CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR. NOW I WILL EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE WHY YOU CRITICIZED ME RATHER THAN THE JERK.**

**YOUR FRIEND TOLD ME THAT IN 1956 YOU MADE $8 AN HOUR IN FRONT OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING BY MAKING A FACE LIKE CAMERON DID, AND PRETENDING TO BE DISABLED. TO PUT THAT IN PERSPECTIVE, IF YOU APPLY A 5% INFLATION RATE TO $8 AN HOUR, THAT MEANS THAT IN 2011 YOU WOULD BE MAKING ABOUT $125 AN HOUR.**

**THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD INCOME FOR DEFRAUDING HARD-WORKING,**

**GENEROUS PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR MONEY BY MOCKING HANDICAPPED VICTIMS.**

**MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU TURNED TO RELIGION A FEW YEARS LATER.**

**MAYBE YOU FIGURED THAT YOU COULD FORGET ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE, BY FINDING AN INVISIBLE FRIEND WHO WOULD FORGIVE YOU.**

**CAMERON IS JUST AN AMATEUR ASSHOLE ... BUT YOU GOT PAID FOR WHAT YOU DID, THAT MAKES YOU A PROFESSIONAL.**

**YOU HAD LOTS OF ADVICE FOR YOUR FRIEND.** **NOW I HAVE SOME ADVICE FOR YOU:**

**WHAT YOU DID WAS VILE. BUT YOU MUST LEARN TO FORGIVE YOURSELF. YOU DON'T NEED INVISIBLE FRIENDS TO RIGHT PAST WRONGS. GO VOLUNTEER AT A FACILITY FOR THE DISABLED. DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR OTHERS. REPAY YOUR DEBT TO SOCIETY, AND YOUR CONSCIENCE MIGHT REWARD YOU IN KIND.**

**AND FINALLY, YOUR OWN WORDS COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU:**

**"It's easy to dismiss people who aren't too smart and who adhere to unscientific dogma."**

**YOU WERE RIGHT DUDE ... IT WAS EASY.**

**NEO**

**(THESKEPTICARENA.COM)**

**ALSO SEE:** [**http://www.skepdic.com/urantia.html**](http://www.skepdic.com/urantia.html)